

August 2006
NORTHERN COMMAND

SAFESTAT REPORT

Highway Patrol Division
Lieutenant Jerry Seevers

Overview

The month of August is one of the busiest and demanding months on the personnel of the Northern Command. The month begins with the annual Hot August Nights event. This year it was estimated that over 800,000 people attend the weeklong event. The Reno Tahoe Blues Festival, the Reno-Tahoe Open at Montreaux Golf Club, the State Fair and Burning Man also bring large numbers of visitors from out of state and locals that travel our area highways. Officers are hired back to work many hours of overtime to provide the motoring public a safe trip.

The number of crashes the officers investigated did increase from last month, but were significantly down from the same period last year. The near completion of many road projects in the Reno area has significantly improved travel. There are no trends or patterns to explain the increase over last month, other than the large number of special events that increase traffic.

Enforcement efforts were down in almost every area. As officers are tasked to work the multitude of events, there is less time available for proactive patrol. Staffing also remains in a state of flux. As the command adds officers to existing vacancies, more leave. Recently the command had three officers transfer to the Investigation Division. Two officers have also been prompted and are transferring to southern Nevada. There are now 6 vacancies to fill again, with 5 other vacancies slotted to be filled by the end of the year.

The Commercial Enforcement Section has now met or exceeded almost all of their Federal goals. The section is dedicated to 100% goal accomplishment by the end of the month of September.

The non sworn staff has also been impacted by vacancies. The front office is down one position due to a promotion, and dispatch is now down two positions.

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Published
08-07-2006

NORTHERN COMMAND

CRASH ANALYSIS AND OVERVIEW

	Aug 2006		Aug 2005	% Change		July 2006	% Change
Total Crashes	363		439	-17.3%		341	6.5%
Property Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	232		287	-19.2%		212	9.4%
Injury Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	127		147	-13.6%		126	0.8%
Fatal Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	4		5	-20.0%		3	33.3%
DUI Crashes [DUI charged]	18		18	0.0%		16	12.5%
Total persons killed in fatal crashes	4		7	-42.9%		3	33.3%
Total drivers killed without seatbelts	1		3	-66.7%		1	0.0%
Total passengers killed without seatbelts	0		2	-100.0%		1	-100.0%
Total drivers killed with seatbelts	0		1	-100.0%		0	0.0%
Total passengers killed with seatbelts	0		0	0.0%		0	0.0%
Total persons killed - seatbelts not applicable	3		1	200.0%		1	200.0%
Total number of commercial vehicle crashes	21		28	-25.0%		21	0.0%
Property crashes involving commercial vehicles	13		23	-43.5%		15	-13.3%
Injury crashes involving commercial vehicle	8		5	60.0%		6	33.3%
Fatal crashes involving commercial vehicle	0		1	-100.0%		0	0.0%

Percentage of fatal crashes to total crashes 1.1%

Percentage of DUI crashes to total crashes 5.0%

Percentage of persons killed *without* seatbelts to total persons killed 25.0%

Percentage of commercial vehicle crashes to total crashes 5.8%

CRASH ANALYSIS:

Crash trends in the Northern Command remain similar to the last few months. There is a large decrease when compared to last year in every category. There was an increase, however, when compared to last month. There were 22 more crashes in the command. There is no significant area or pattern to establish a reason for the increase. There was 1 more fatal crash compared to last month, but 1 fewer than last year.

FIELD ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

[Analysis and review of current reporting period, versus same period in previous fiscal year, versus previous reporting period]

	Aug 06		Aug 05	% Change		July 06	% Change
DUI arrests from crashes **	18		18	0.0%		16	12.5%
DUI arrests <i>prior</i> to crashes **	123		87	41.4%		129	-4.7%
Other Arrests	489		365	34.0%		549	-10.9%
Total persons arrested (DUI included) **	230		189	21.7%		257	-10.5%
Speed violations	1834		2084	-12.0%		2156	-14.9%
Hazardous moving violations	650		858	-24.2%		697	-6.7%
Occupant restraint violations *	303		386	-21.5%		273	11.0%
Total violations [above violations included]	4994		5604	-10.9%		5422	-7.9%
Commercial Enforcement							
Hazardous moving violations - citations/arrests	54		48	12.5%		63	-14.3%
Other traffic violations - citations/arrests	64		41	56.1%		94	-31.9%
Total safety inspections [level 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6]	623		987	-36.9%		588	6.0%
Terminal inspections [level 5] CR only	0		2	-100.0%		5	-100.0%
Total safety violations -- citation	363		327	11.0%		252	44.0%
Total safety violations -- repair order	2307		3005	-23.2%		2181	5.8%
Total vehicles placed "Out of Service"	123		154	-20.1%		103	19.4%
Total drivers placed "Out of Service"	75		115	-34.8%		71	5.6%
Total school buses inspected	244		208	17.3%		59	313.6%
Total school buses placed "Out of Service"	23		39	-41.0%		1	2200.0%
Total trucks weighed	810		632	28.2%		210	285.7%
Total overweight citations	41		40	2.5%		40	2.5%
Total dyed fuel inspections	332		687	-51.7%		361	-8.0%
Total dyed fuel citations	1		4	-75.0%		1	0.0%

* Seat belt and child restraint

** Commercial Enforcement Activity Included

FIELD ENFORCEMENT:

The Northern Command was down in almost every enforcement category when compared to last year. The only positive was an increase in occupant restraint violations.

When compared to last year there was an increase in all arrest categories. The most positive was an outstanding increase of 41.4% in DUI arrests. When compared to last month, there was a decrease in all arrest categories.

The Commercial Enforcement Section is on pace to meet or exceed all goals. They have shifted their focus to concentrate on the final few areas in their federal goals.

RENO URBAN TRAFFIC

The Reno Urban area's staffing continues to be plagued by inter-departmental transfers, light duty assignments, special enforcement assignments and military leave. Including the recent re-instatement of a trooper, a total of 31 troopers were available during the month of August. This total does not take into consideration extended sick leave, training assignments, military duty and special events. However, there is one inter-departmental and one divisional transfer, two academy graduates and a rehire pending. We hope to have all 37 positions filled by the end of the year.

The urban area crash statistics showed a 3% decrease over last month and a 27% decrease over the same period last year. No specific crash trends could be identified through the individual shift crash logs. However, the decreasing number of construction zones may be a contributing factor to the overall decline in crashes. Sixty seven percent of the crashes were property damage only while thirty percent were injury or claimed injury crashes. There were no fatal accidents in the urban area during August.

Of the 187 crashes this month, 7 were identified as being alcohol related. This was down by 12% from last month and 22% from the same period last year.

Due to the limited manpower available, the total enforcement activity experienced an overall decrease of 4% over last month and 15% over the same period last year. However, this month's 102 total DUI arrests were up by more than 67% over the same period last year.

Occupant restraint violations continue to increase despite the downturn in staffing. However, there seems to be no direct correlation between the increased enforcement efforts and the number of injury crashes investigated.

The urban area will continue to deploy strategies toward education and enforcement whenever possible and as staffing allows.

CARSON/TAHOE/MINDEN

For the month of August the Carson/Tahoe/Minden District showed an average increase in accidents comparatively to last month and as well as last year by 7.4% and 46.9% respectively.

For the month of August, The CTM District investigated two (2) fatality accidents. The first fatality involved a single motorcycle on US-50 West. The rider/driver was killed when his motorcycle struck the guardrail. The passenger sustained non-life threatening injuries and was flown to Washoe Medical Center. The second fatality occurred on US-50 East at Dayton Hill when a non-street legal dirt bike rider struck a mini van. The driver/rider was killed on impact with the van. The three (3) occupants of the van, a female and her two children were transported to Carson Tahoe Medical Center with minor injuries.

SIRT assisted the CTM District in two (2) accidents during the month of August. One accident involved a Nevada Department of Transportation vehicle crash cushion truck, a sweeper and a Hyundai on US-50 West going up Spooner. The driver of the Hyundai was transported to Washoe Medical Center for lacerations to the forehead. The other accident occurred at US-395 and Snyder when a vehicle turning from US-395 onto eastbound Snyder, turned directly into the path of another vehicle. The driver of the other vehicle and his two children were transported to Washoe Medical Center for treatment. Neither of the children were seat belted in the vehicle.

Total violations, DUI arrests prior to crashes, speed violations and occupant restraint violations have decreased comparatively to last year as well as last month. Other arrests and Total persons arrested have increased comparatively to last year; however, they decreased comparatively to last month.

Both Day and Swing shift utilized the aircraft on three (3) separate dates; however, neither shift conducted directive enforcement for the month of August.

A trooper is currently in his fourth week of PSTO training for the CTM area, this leaves the CTM District down one (1) trooper.

FERNLEY/FALLON

For a second consecutive month, the Fernley/Fallon District reported a reduction in total crashes. Total crashes are down 22.6% compared to last year and down 24.1% compared to last month. Property damage crashes are down 27.6% compared to last year and down 24.1% compared to last month. Injury crashes are down 18.2% compared to last year and down 10% compared to last month. Fatal crashes remained the same as last year with two crashes and two persons killed. One of the fatal crashes involved a bicyclist vs. a pick up truck in Fallon and the other was a single vehicle rollover, with a single unrestrained occupant on SR828.

Staffing levels remained the same as last month with Fernley holding one vacancy. This vacancy represents a 6.7% decrease in staffing at the trooper level for the district. This decrease continues to affect the areas field enforcement efforts. Total violations were down 9.2% compared to last year but up 10.4% compared to last month. DUI arrests from crashes were up 200% and DUI arrest prior to crash was down 50%. This will be monitored to ensure a trend is not developing.

The Fernley roundabout was completed and opened on August 18. The first couple of days resulted in some confusion by area motorists, but traffic now seems to be moving much better. In addition, the traffic backing up to exits 46 and 48 has been eliminated. It also appears that the roundabout has lightened the commuter traffic load at the intersections of SR427 and US95A.

The Burning Man event is currently under way in the Black Rock Desert, north of Gerlach, NV. The Highway Patrol Division is scheduled to staff 119 shifts, patrolling SR447 with twenty-four hour a day operations, covering all 12 days surrounding the event. A Burning Man representative reported a new population record of 39,100 participants. Burning Man personnel and all allied agencies report a very calm event as compared to previous years. Preliminary reporting shows that we have investigated four property damage crashes and one minor injury crash, however, the event is still under way.

COMMERCIAL ENFORCEMENT

The Northern Command Commercial Enforcement Section has met, and will exceed, the goals and objectives as stated in the Commercial Vehicle Safety Plan. At the end of August 2006, the Northern Command Commercial Enforcement Section has achieved its yearly goal requirements. August is the eleventh month of the Federal Fiscal Year and the second month in the fourth quarter. The year to date goal achievement percentages are in excess of 99.00%.

The Northern Command Commercial Enforcement Section currently has 22 allocated troopers. However, during the month of August, commercial staffing levels were down by three. One trooper was promoted to Sergeant and transferred to the Traffic section. The second trooper was on 4800 time recovering from a work related knee injury and the third

trooper was on family medical leave recovering from knee surgery. In addition to the decrease in manpower, leave time accounted for 10.33% of the total time. In August, the Northern Command Commercial Enforcement Section continued with its mandatory re-certification training. The time spent in training and instructing classes accounted for approximately 7.29% of the total time in August.

The Northern Command has achieved 125.04% of its Level I inspections, 183.33% of its Level 1 Haz-Mat inspections, 115.80% of its Level II/III inspections, 99.77% of its Level II/III Haz-Mat inspection, 338.98% of its Level II/III enforcement inspections, 103.51% of trucks weighed on interstate highways, 115.49% of its Motor Coach Level II/III inspections. During the month of August, the Commercial Enforcement dayshift personnel targeted hazardous material vehicles and will continue to place enforcement efforts toward these deficiencies.

In August, the Northern Command Commercial Enforcement Section handled two property damage crashes. One of these crashes involved a commercial motor vehicle (CMV). The commercial section also assisted the traffic division with 38 other crashes. Out of 38 other crashes, 16 involved a commercial motor vehicle.

As of the month of August, the Northern Command Commercial Enforcement Section has completed four of the required six per year Southern Command Strike-Force (STEP) program. The Northern Command has two deployments remaining and they are scheduled in September.

The Commercial Enforcement Section participated in two major events. The first event, Truckerfest, was held in Sparks, during the first week of August. The second event is the N.A.I.C. competition. Trooper Stone represented the State of Nevada at this competition. The event was held in New Orleans.

Interagency Criminal Enforcement (ICE) TEAM

This is the second month of statistics reporting for the DPS Northern Command ICE Team, as it has just become functional officially July 1, 2006. There are no comparison statistics for prior annual periods.

Field enforcement activity included:

- 1 contact where a subject was arrested for Trafficking a Controlled Substance (21 grams of cocaine, 9 grams of hashish, 2 hashish brownies weighing 57 grams and 30 grams of Marijuana)
- 1 contact where a subject was arrested and charged with 19 felony drug counts (24 prescriptions totaling 373 pills), 2.5 ounces of marijuana and 1 count of Possession of a Dangerous Weapon (switch-blade knife). This stop also resulted in the seizure of \$9,802 in cash and 3 handguns
- 1 contact where a subject was arrested for PCS Methamphetamine and Marijuana (1 gram of each)
- 1 contact where a subject was arrested for Possession of a Dangerous Weapon (brass knuckles)
- Additionally, there was 1 DUI and several other misdemeanor arrests.

The ICE Team is currently staffed with 3 officers and 1 sergeant. Total work hours lost was 329.95, or 47.68% of the 692 total staff hours. Most of the lost hours were a result of training. Officers assisted the DPS Academy with EVOC, DT Instructor recertification, Building Searches and S.F.S.T.'s. Officers also attended TASER and PSTO training classes. We used 30 hours of Annual leave, 11.29 hours of Comp leave and 21.5 hours of Sick leave. There were 90.42 hours of claimed overtime and comp accrued.

One of our officers is assigned to the unit from the Parole and Probation Division. This officer has begun a PSTO program, which will provide the proper training and documentation to allow him to function as a single unit. Having recently attended PSTO training, the other ICE Team members will serve as trainers for this task. Until that officer is single in a marked unit, the ICE Team has 3 working marked units when fully staffed.

In September, the team will attend Desert Snow (drug interdiction) training in Laughlin, NV. In addition, the southern ICE Team is expected to come to Reno the week of September 25th to provide interdiction training for officers in Northern Nevada.

AIR OPERATIONS

The Northern Command aircraft flew a total of 61.1 hours during August. Of the total, 31 hours, or 51% of the flight time, was spent on airborne speed enforcement activities. 28% of the flight time was utilized transporting Department personnel within the State and 13% of the flight time was spent transporting prisoners. 5% of the flight time was spent on line patrol along SR447 for traffic in route to the Burning Man festival.

Nine of sixteen speed enforcement missions were flown during the month. One mission was cancelled due to a commercial vehicle crash which closed the freeway, two were cancelled because of a lack of manpower, and one was cancelled for unscheduled maintenance. Three missions were cancelled for unscheduled personnel transports.

370 total citations were issued. Of these, 17 were hazardous moving violations, 46 were non-hazardous, 304 were for speed and 3 were seat belt violations. Two warrant arrests were made and four motorist assists were spotted.

Six in state prisoner transports were conducted.

Six in state personnel transports were conducted; The Chief was flown to Elko for a promotional ceremony, he was also flown to two funerals this month in Las Vegas. The Director was also flown to Las Vegas to conduct a press conference with the FBI due to our apprehension of 10 most wanted fugitive Warren Jeffs. The Director was also transported to Las Vegas for the funerals.

Local businessman and pilot RH Brown has generously donated to the highway patrol a moving map IFR certified GPS unit and transponder. This donation is valued at \$9500.00 and will give our Northern Command Cessna 210 a much needed avionics upgrade. The units will be installed during September.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES	Aug 2006	Aug 2005	% Change	July 2006	% Change
FRONT OFFICE					
Accident Reports Processed	296	514	-42.14%	365	-18.90%
Arrest Reports Processed	236	162	+45.67%	232	+1.72%
Incident / Officer Reports Processed	11	13	-15.38%	19	-42.10%
Office Accident Reports Taken	31	9	+244.44%	15	+106.66%
COURT / WARRANT					
Warrants Received	576	689	-16.4%	539	6.86%
Warrants Entered	426	437	-2.5%	186	129.03%
Warrants Cleared	689	525	31.2%	642	7.32%
Warrants Validated	345	238	45.0%	276	25.00%
Citations Processed	3501	4311	-18.78%	3485	+0.45%
COMMUNICATION CENTER					
Radio Transmissions	108208	115590	-6.39%	113403	-4.58%
CAD incidents	13610	12948	5.11%	13994	-2.74%

FRONT OFFICE

The front office records section had many changes over the last rating period. The AAIII was promoted to AAIV as the Evidence Custodian, while one AAII is now serving as the Acting Records Supervisor.

Both clerks involved with the Warrants section have been heavily utilized for front office coverage. A clerk serving as trainer to Warrants is still performing this task until the section moves to Carson City sometime in October. They also arranged five prisoner transports, warrants validations, performed 59 court call-offs as well as assisting with warrant confirmations. They were responsible for 9 court runs, processing 21 subpoenas, clearing 252 warrants, processing 151 citations for court, and 63 pieces of transport and miscellaneous court paperwork.

Overtime utilized by the record's section continues to be for assistance with the second-check backlog, and archiving the 2001 DUI and fatal accident reports. The film clerk processed 168 Veripic cases this period, as well as 21 digital photo requests and 5 35mm requests. She has also been assisting with Storekeeping duties and has been responsible for organizing and cleaning the storage warehouse. Sick leave increased this period by 14%, with compensatory leave heavily increasing by due to summertime vacations. Annual leave significantly decreased. Paid overtime increased by only 17% even with front office staffing changing so drastically. Compensatory time earned decreased by 90%

Office reports taken increased to 31 for the month. Accident reports taken by troopers decreased by 19% this period. Arrest reports slightly increased by 1.7%. Incident reports taken by officers decreased by 42%. Citations issued and processed slightly increased by .45%.

COURT WARRANTS

Court warrants personnel are still in training. 576 warrants were received and 426 were entered. With the combining of Warrants and Communications, a new policy has been created. Communications will be aiding with the entry and checking of warrants. It is expected that this will improve entry amounts and packing of warrant records.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Northern Command Communication center is down 3 PSD I positions. We are awaiting backgrounds to attempt to fill. One is scheduled to begin in September.

Total work hours lost increased by 2.36% since last month primarily due to a decrease in sick leave and increase in comp leave. It decreased by -2.39% from the previous year due to a decrease in sick leave.

Compensatory overtime decreased by 10.05% when compared to last month. Overtime as a whole increased by 29.8% when compared to the same period last year and decreased by 16.26% when compared to last month. The increases are due to the increased number of vacancies in the Center as well as increased leave taken. The coverage of annual leave accounted for 50.22% of paid overtime and 24.94% of comp overtime. The remainder was primarily covering training and vacant positions.

Radio transmissions decreased by 4.58% over this period last year and decreased 6.39% since last month. CAD incidents have increased by 5.11% over last year and decreased 2.74% since last month. These fluctuations appear to be minimal and due to the normal increases and decreases in calls for service.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR

The month of August was filled with a variety of scheduled events throughout northern Nevada. We began the month by participating in the annual community safety and awareness campaign labeled "National Night Out." Troopers and personnel from the Department of Public Safety attended the event in Carson City at Mills Park, which allowed citizens the opportunity to see a variety of law enforcement and public safety displays as well as learn more about our roles in public service. The "crash dummies" Vince and Larry were also on hand to remind everyone the importance of seatbelt usage.

Our division also participated in the annual "executive lock-up" for the Muscular Dystrophy Association held at the Claim Jumper restaurant in Reno. Local citizens were driven to a mock jail and had to make phone calls to their friends and co-workers in an effort to make bail. All of the monies raised stay in northern Nevada for this charitable organization.

During the third week of this month we were privileged to host "Drivers Edge" at the Washoe County Public Training Center. Over 1000 young drivers and parents had the opportunity to receive behind the wheel training and a presentation by our division that focused on accident prevention and safe driving techniques. This event was partially funded by a grant from our Office of Traffic Safety, which allowed the attendees to participate at no cost. We look forward to hosting this event again in 2007 and remain hopeful that we can schedule 2 separate sessions which will give more young drivers the opportunity to participate.

We also participated in the annual Nevada State Fair. This year we set up a recruitment and information table that was staffed by personnel from many DPS divisions as well as having a display from the Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD).

As we approached the end of the month there were a number of safe driving interviews completed for the Labor Day holiday weekend.

Lastly, we are continuing to provide 5 live daily traffic reports weekdays on News Channel 8 and 2 traffic reports daily on 94.5 FM giving the community up to date information about our northern Nevada highways.

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Carson City/Minden/Lake Tahoe